



## Expert Statements on Vaccines and Autism:

Five large epidemiological studies have been conducted in the United States and in Europe since 2001. These studies have all consistently provided evidence that there is no association between thimerosal-containing vaccines and autism.

### Public Health Agencies and Medical Experts Refute the Link Between Vaccines and Autism:

- In 2004, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (IOM) concluded that there is no association between vaccines and autism:

“Based on a thorough review of clinical and epidemiological studies, neither the mercury-based vaccine preservative thimerosal nor the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine are associated with autism...Furthermore, **the hypotheses regarding how the MMR vaccine and thimerosal could trigger autism lack supporting evidence and are theoretical only.** Further research to find the cause of autism should be directed toward other lines of inquiry that are supported by current knowledge and evidence and offer more promise for providing an answer.”

**“Five large epidemiological studies conducted in the United States, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Sweden since 2001 consistently provided evidence that there is no association between thimerosal-containing vaccines and autism.”**

(“Immunization Safety Review: Vaccines and Autism,” Institute of Medicine National Academies, May 17, 2004)

- The American Academy of Pediatrics issued the following statement in response to the IOM report:

**“There are no valid studies that show a link between thimerosal in vaccines and autistic spectrum disorder.** A 2004 report from the Institute of Medicine, Vaccines and Autism, concluded that the available evidence is against the existence of a causal relationship between thimerosal-containing vaccines and autism.”

“CDC found no change in autism rates relative to the amount of thimerosal a child received from vaccines in the first six months of life. In other words, **a child who received more thimerosal was not more likely to be autistic.**”

([www.cispimmunize.org/fam/thimerosal.htm](http://www.cispimmunize.org/fam/thimerosal.htm))

- The March of Dimes, along with seven former directors of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said:

**“The implication that vaccinations cause autism is irresponsible and counter productive,”** said Michael Katz, M.D., senior vice president for Research and Global Programs for the March of Dimes...Although several carefully performed scientific studies have searched for a link between autism and the use of thimerosal in vaccines, no such link has been found.”

(“Childhood Vaccines Save Lives, March Of Dimes Says,” March of Dimes, January 29, 2008)

- The CEO of the American Medical Association, Michael D. Maves, M.D., said the following:

“Scientific data overwhelmingly show that there is no connection between vaccines and autism... We need more research to investigate the actual causes of autism, but **it would be a disservice to the health of our children if we let vaccines take the blame for this tragic and complex disease.**”

(“AMA responds to premiere episode of ABC’s ‘Eli Stone,’” American Medical Association, January 25, 2008)

- Peter Hotez, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.A.P., father of an autistic child and professor and chair of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Tropical Medicine at George Washington University, said the following on July 19, 2005:

“I can say authoritatively without question that having a child with autism has been my family’s single greatest challenge and my own personal greatest challenge. My own opinion is that autism is one of the cruelest conditions that could befall a child or her parents...**One thing that we’re totally confident about is that Rachel’s autism had absolutely nothing to do with the vaccines that she received.** Even if we could turn back the clock and do it all over again, I can honestly say that we would still give Rachel her full complement of pediatric vaccines.”

**“We need a war on autism, not a war on childhood vaccines.”**

(“Media Briefing on Vaccines and Child Health,” *State News Service*, July 19, 2005)

- The World Health Organization (WHO) said the following:

**“It is important to note that concerns about the toxicity of thimerosal are theoretical and there is no compelling scientific evidence of a safety problem with its use in vaccines,** although public perception of risk remains in some countries. WHO policy is clear on this issue, and **the Organization continues to recommend the use of vaccines containing thimerosal for global immunization programmes since the benefits of using such products far outweigh any theoretical risk of toxicity.”**

(“Vaccines and Biologicals: Recommendations from the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts,” *Weekly Epidemiological Record*, WHO, September 13, 2002)